

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for evaluating a boot source in a computer system having a processor comprising the steps of:
 3. (a) determining the boot source used by the processor each time the computer system boots; and
 4. (b) allowing the boot source to be specified once as a known boot source.
1. 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the known boot source ensuring step (b) further includes the step of:
 3. (b1) specifying that the known boot source to be a FLASH boot source.
1. 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the specifying step (b1) further includes the step of:
 3. (b1i) writing an identity of the FLASH boot source in a write-once register which identifies the boot source for future boots.
1. 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step (a) further includes the step of:
 3. (a1) writing an identity of the boot source in a register each time the computer system boots.

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5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
- 2 (c) checking the boot source determined in step (a) to ensure that the boot source
- 3 is the known boot source.

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6. A system for evaluating a boot source in a computer system having a
- 2 processor coupled with a boot source, the system comprising:
- 3 a first register for storing an identity of the boot source used by the processor each
- 4 time the computer system boots; and
- 5 a second register for allowing the boot source to be specified once as a known boot
- 6 source.

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7. The system of claim 6 wherein the computer system includes a bridge
- 2 coupling the processor with the boot source and wherein the first register and the second
- 3 register are located in the bridge.

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8. The system of claim 7 wherein the bridge is a south bridge.
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9. The system of claim 6 wherein the known boot source is written only once to
- 2 the second register.

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10. The system of claim 9 wherein the known boot source is a FLASH boot
- 2 source.

11. The system of claim 6 wherein the identity of the boot source is written to the
first register each time the computer system boots.

12. The system of claim 6 wherein the processor is capable of checking the boot
source stored in the first register to ensure that the boot source is the known boot source.